

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-09 EB-05 AF-05 EUR-06 SR-02 ORM-01

INR-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 PRS-01 SS-07 /107 W
----- 124203

R 221155 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6524

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L FORT LAMY 0399

AIDAC

ROME FOR FODAG

SUBJ: CHADIAN REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT FOR FAMINE RELIEF

1. MINISTER TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND HOUSING RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FAMINE RELIEF HAS REQUESTED US CARGO AIRCRAFT FOR EMERGENCY GRAIN DISTRIBUTION AFTER MAY 1 AND BEFORE JUNE 10. TOTAL TONNAGE PROPOSED FOR AIRLIFT, TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN FRG, FRANCE, CHAD AND US, ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 1100. ROUGH CALCULATION US SHARE LOOKS LIKE 300 TONS. (WE ARE CHECKING CURRENT REPORT FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE ALREADY TRANSPORTED SOME GRAIN). WE HAVE REPLIED THAT WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS REQUEST AT MINISTER'S CONVENIENCE.

2. WE ARE FAR FROM SATISFIED WITH CHADIAN PERFORMANCE IN WHOLE AREA OF FAMINE RELIEF AND HAVE BEEN MAKING POINT TO ONE AND ALL THAT WE NEED DEMONSTRATION GOC' S OWN CONCERN BY ITS MOBILIZATION

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COUNTRY'S RESOURCES, NO MATTER HOW LIMITED THEY MAY BE. ONE OF PRINCIPAL OBSTRUCTIONS IS MINISTER DJONOUMA HIMSELF, WHO IS AWAY FROM FORT LAMY MORE THAN HALF THE TIME AND DOES NOT DELEGATE AUTHORITY IN HIS ABSENCE. ONLY MAJOR GOC CONTRIBUTION IS CFA EQUIVALENT 30,000 DOLLARS FOR TRANSPORT. WE INTEND AT NEXT MEETING WITH DJONOUMA-- HE IS NOW SPENDING TEN DAYS IN SARH TO COMMEMORATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF PRESIDEN'S BROTHER-- TO STATE THAT UNTIL WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO MOVE THE GRAIN BY SURFACE, WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO REQUEST AIR-LIFT. WE ARE PREPARED TO SPECIFY SOME OF THE ACTIONS WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR AND TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF A NON- FOOD AID SUCH AS USE OF OUR SELF- HELP FUNDS AND POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF PC WELL- DRILLING TEAMS TO MOST SERIOUSLY DROUGHT- STRICKEN REGIONS.

3. DESPITE OUR OVERALL DISSATISFACTION, IT IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT LAND TRANSPORTATION AND FUEL SUPPLY (AT ONE DOLLAR PER GAL) WILL BE INADEQUATE AND FUNDS INSUFFICIENT TO TRUCK REQUIRED AMOUNTS GRAIN TO MOST REMOTE TOWNS. (E. G. TO TRUCK 300 TONS TO REMOTE NORTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER FAYA- LAGEAU WOULD OCCUPY 30 TRUCK TRAILERS FOR 15 DAYS). BY LATE APRIL WE SHOULD KNOW WHETHER AIRLIFT IS NECESSARY AND IF SO WHAT TONNAGES MUST BE MOVED, AND WHEN, TO WHICH PLACES. ALSO, BY THAT TIME WE GUESS THAT WFP, FED, FAC AND US MAY HAVE HAD TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF COORDINATED AIRLIFT FOR ENTIRE SAHELIAN ZONE. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE CONTINUE DIALOG WITH GOC AND REPRESENTATIVES DONOR AGENCIES HERE WHILE GOC IMPROVES ITS OPERATIONS AND MAJOR DONORS REFINE INFORMATION ON AIRLIFT NEEDS AND RESOURCES.

4. TO PUT CHADIAN FAMINE SITUATION IN PERSPECTIVE AFTER VISITS BY MYSELF AND STAFF TO MOST CORNERS OF COUNTRY OVER PAST SIX WEEKS, WE CONCLUDE REAL FAMINE AREA ENCOMPASSES ALL OF CHAD NORTH OF THIRTEEN DEGREES LATITUDE AND EAST OF EIGHTEEN DEGREES LONGITUDE PLUS THE KANEM, NORTH OF LAKE CHAD, BUT WITH EXCEPTION SMALL POCKET WEST OF ADRE ON CHAD- SUDAN FRONTIER. BECAUSE HEAVILY POPULATED SOUTH, INCLUDING SAHR (FORMERLY FORT ARCHAMBAULT) IS NOT SERIOUSLY Affected, FAMINE AREA IS INHABITED BY ONLY 800,000 TO ONE MILLION PEOPLE, ABOUT ONE- FOURTH OF CHAD'S POPULATION, AND CONTAINS LARGE PORTION OF NOMADS. THIS CORRESPONDS ROUGHLY WITH PREFECTURES OF B. E. T. BILTINE, OUADDAI AND SALAMAT. IN OUADDAI LAST WEEK I EXAMINED SITUATION EXTENSIVELY WITH PREFECT AND FOUR ELECTED DEPUTIES WHO REPORT PRICE OF MILLET HAS TRIPLED IN PAST YEAR WHEREAS PRICE OF CATTLE DOWN TWO- THIRDS. LIVESTOCK
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IS BEING SOLD FOR SLAUGHTER PREMATURELY TO PREVENT DEATH FROM

THIRST AND STARVATION. AVERAGE HEAD OF CATTLE BEING SOLD FOR
SLAUGHTER AT ABECHE IS BRINGING ONLY FRANCS CFA FIVE THOUSAND
WHEREAS FIFTY KILO SACK OF MILLET COSTS FRANCS CFA SIX THOUSAND.
WFP (US ORIGIN) SORGHUM HAS BEGUN REACHING FAMINE AREAS OF
BILTINE AND OUADDIA.

5. ACTION REQUIRED: NONE AT THIS TIME. GDS
MULCAHY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FORTL00399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: FORT LAMY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaicll.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971217
Subject: CHADIAN REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT FOR FAMINE RELIEF
TAGS: EAIR, n/a
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ABIDJAN
BAMAKO
BRUSSELS
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

